

1 [Emergency Declaration - Camp Mather Tree Removals - Estimated Cost of Repairs Exceeds
2 \$250,000]

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3 **Resolution approving the Recreation and Park Department General Manager's**
4 **declaration of an emergency based on catastrophic tree mortality at Camp Mather,**
5 **estimated of cost more than \$250,000 to repair, pursuant to Administrative Code,**
6 **Section 6.60(b).**

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8 WHEREAS, Camp Mather is a 350-acre family summer camp located in the pristine
9 wilderness of the Sierra Nevada mountains and has been managed by the Recreation and
10 Park Department since 1923; and

11 WHEREAS, Every year approximately 7,000 San Franciscans enjoy Camp Mather
12 during the summer camp season, having successfully secured a one-week reservation
13 through the annual Camp Mather lottery; and

14 WHEREAS, As a natural result of prolonged drought and devastating wildfires, various
15 species of bark beetle have infested and killed over 66 million conifer trees throughout the
16 Sierra Nevada over the last three; and

17 WHEREAS, On October 30, 2015, the Governor of California declared a State of
18 Emergency throughout the State because of the epidemic proportions of this fast-moving tree
19 mortality; and

20 WHEREAS, The Camp Mather landscape overwhelmingly comprises conifer trees
21 (Ponderosa Pine, Jeffrey Pine, Sugar Pine, Incense Cedar, and Fir) of enormous size (100 feet
22 in height, 3 to 4 feet in diameter), and bark beetle infestation has killed widespread stands of
23 these huge trees throughout the camp acreage; and

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1 WHEREAS, Dead trees of this size pose an extreme public safety hazard as their root
2 system no longer holds them in place and they shed huge, thick, and heavy sheaths of bark
3 which fall as their trunks desiccate; and

4 WHEREAS, Once a conifer tree has been infested by bark beetles the only remedy is
5 to completely remove the tree; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department's certified arborist and Chief Urban Forester has
7 inspected the trees in the areas of Camp Mather that inhabited and used by the City's
8 summer campers, and has inventoried approximately 1,500 dead trees that pose extreme
9 public safety hazards and must be removed before the start of the 2017 camp season; and

10 WHEREAS, The winter climate conditions and soil saturation levels from winter rains
11 and snow made tree removal impossible throughout the winter months; and

12 WHEREAS, Cancelling the 2017 Camp Mather season would very negatively impact
13 thousands of San Franciscans who treasure their week at Camp Mather, including many San
14 Francisco children who would otherwise have no respite from the urban density of the City;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department has
17 determined that these circumstances must be addressed as a vital quality of life issue for
18 families in San Francisco; and

19 WHEREAS, Under the authority granted by the Administrative Code, Section 6.60(b),
20 the General Manager declared an emergency on February 27, 2017, and gave notice of the
21 emergency to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor, Controller, and Recreation and Park
22 Commission; and

23 WHEREAS, Recreation and Park Department staff analyzed the bark beetle infestation
24 vector, inventory of dead trees, State of California regulatory requirements for timber removal,
25 and disposal options for all removed tree wood, and determined that removal of the

1 inventoried 1,500 dead trees was necessary for public safety purposes vital to the 2017 Camp
2 Season and that the tree removal, regulatory compliance, and disposal would cost
3 approximately \$1,600,000; and

4 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Administrative Code, Section 6.60(b), the General Manager
5 has secured the written approval of the President of the Recreation and Park Commission
6 prior to authorizing the commencement of emergency work, as the estimated cost of the work
7 is in excess of \$250,000; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department anticipates executing an emergency contract with Crook
9 Logging, Inc. for the tree removal and timber disposal; and

10 WHEREAS, The Controller has certified that funds are available for this emergency
11 contract; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors approves the emergency declaration for
13 the removal and disposal of 1,500 dead trees at Camp Mather made by the General Manager
14 on February 27, 2017; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That within thirty (30) days of an emergency contract being
16 fully executed by all parties, the Department shall provide a copy of the contract to the Clerk
17 of the Board for inclusion into the official file.

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